LINKWASHA CAMP
All you need to know
Why Linkwasha?

Linkwasha is being built on the site of the “old” Linkwasha Camp and is a symbol of Wilderness Safaris’ commitment to Zimbabwe – one that has lasted for 18 years.

Tendai Mdluli - Trade Relationship Manager, Zimbabwe

“With the increasing visitor demand for Zimbabwe we want to offer our partners and guests a more exclusive option in Hwange National Park. Our approach has always been to offer outstanding experiences in the best wildlife destinations in Africa and the Linkwasha Concession in Hwange is no exception; in fact it is one of the most abundant areas in the Park.”
Linkwasha in Brief

- Completely private access throughout the Concession; no overlap with public areas
- Best wildlife location within Hwange – productive in both summer and winter
- Easy access to key areas for great game viewing – including Ngamo Plains, which is exceptional during the summer season (November to March)
- Superb area for walking safaris
- Panoramic views from everywhere in camp, including of the continuous passing parade of wildlife at the camp waterhole
- Thanks to its Classic 1 status, it is easily combined with other luxury properties in Zimbabwe as well as Botswana

Best wildlife location within Hwange
Linkwasha’s Vision

As a Wilderness Safaris Classic 1 Camp (the highest rating of Classic Camps), Linkwasha Camp will be a flagship camp in terms of luxury, service, location, visual appeal and wildlife experience.

The fresh, open and airy design of the camp will be complemented by an eclectic mix of contemporary interiors with the original spirit and essence of safari.

In line with Wilderness Safaris’ conservation commitment, Linkwasha Camp will be built using various sustainable and energy-efficient solutions.

Most luxurious camp in Hwange
What’s it like?

- Seven twin/double tents and one family tent; therefore 18 guests at any one time
- Multi-level decks in the main area, providing a variety of views
- Dining room, bar and lounge under canvas, decks overlooking the plains
- Pool in main area
- Winter lounge with a fireplace and small dining area
- Library in winter lounge
- Communal as well as private dining possible in numerous areas

Most luxurious camp in Hwange

Facilities:

- Family room
- Pool
- Waterhole
- Game drive (day)
- Game drive (night)
- Guided walks
- Cultural activity

More on website
Things to do

Linkwasha Concession is a private area and therefore access is granted to Wilderness Safaris guests and vehicles only.

- Game drives – Our four vehicles allow for one private vehicle should it be required – at additional cost.
- Walking safaris – Exceptional area to view wildlife up close and personal.
- Local Village Visit – Engaging with, and learning about, the traditional ways of life of the local community.
- Sleep-out deck – Sleep out under the stars and immerse yourself in the sights and sounds of Africa.
- Conservation presentations – Learn more about the area, its wildlife and how we help to protect it, from our resident ecologist (if he is available and in camp).

Exceptional area to view wildlife up close and personal

More on website
When to go?

December - March:
- Summer rainfall brings the plains of Hwange to life, with grazing animals, their young and birds in abundance.
- Incredible green season big game viewing with substantial herds of zebra, wildebeest, eland, waterbuck and impala on Ngamo Plains, together with giraffe, lion, buffalo and elephant.

April - May:
- Onset of the dry season – grass dwindles, pans dry out and vegetation thins.
- Thus, large mammals are drawn to the remaining waterholes – elephant herds are seen more regularly.
- Water-dependent herbivores like buffalo, zebra and even kudu, sable and roan are drawn from the woodlands into the open vleis where the remaining water is situated.

June - November:
- Dry grass and leafless trees mean that game in general is easier to see.
- With no rain, an endless procession of large herds of elephant and other impressive wildlife concentrations are found at the waterholes.

Linkwasha is an all year-round destination: excellent winter viewing within the concession is complemented by the fantastic summer viewing on the nearby famed Ngamo Plains.
Access to Linkwasha

- Wilderness Air flight from Victoria Falls Airport to Linkwasha Airstrip; approximately 45 – 60 minutes road transfer to camp.
- Self-drive to Hwange Main Camp with a 2x4 followed by a transfer to camp at additional cost or to Ngweshla with a 4x4 followed by game drive transfer to camp.

SPECIAL

On a stay of three consecutive nights (or longer) per camp, at any of the following – Davison’s Camp, Little Makalolo, Ruckomechi Camp, Changa Camp and Linkwasha Camp – (from 1 May 2015) guests will receive a **discount of 50%** on the scheduled Wilderness Air flying seat rates between these specific camps and/or Victoria Falls/Harare as the points of origin or departure.
Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe has once again become a favoured destination for Africa travellers.

This country, blessed with a wealth of scenic landscapes, remnants of ancient civilisations and incredible wildlife, has seen a return to political stability over the past few years. This means that discerning travellers can expect a hassle-free journey at good prices and therefore excellent value for money – knowing that in return, their tourism dollars are helping ensure the livelihoods of Zimbabwe's friendly and hospitable people and their natural heritage.

- Some of the friendliest people in Africa
- Regular international flights to Harare and Victoria Falls
- A safe destination
- Abundant wildlife
- Best Professional Guides in Africa
- National Parks are large, thus avoiding the crowding of other destinations in Africa
- Excellent value for money
- Fabulous climate, with warm summers and cool, dry winters

Best Professional Guides in Africa
Wilderness and Hwange – a History

1928
Hwange was proclaimed a nature reserve in 1928. Known then as Wankie Game Reserve, it was virtually devoid of any wildlife at that time.

Ted Davison
Ted Davison was appointed the first warden and, together with his team, over the next 30 years devoted most of his life to developing Hwange, as it is known today.

1.4 million hectares
In 1949, Hwange was declared a National Park and now comprises 1.4 million hectares supporting a wide mix of habitats and wildlife. Hwange is the country’s largest game reserve.

Wilderness Safaris has been operating within Hwange for the past 18 years in two private concessions: Makalolo since the end of 1996 and Linkwasha in 1999.

Makalolo Plains and Little Makalolo were built in 1997, Linkwasha in 1998 and Davison’s Camp in 2006.

1.4 million hectares
The rebuilding from scratch of Linkwasha Camp, an old favourite with many, is testament to Wilderness Safaris’ commitment to the wildlife and people of Zimbabwe.

More on website
Our Hwange Concessions

**OUR CONCESSIONS:** Makalolo and Linkwasha

**WHERE?** South-eastern corner of Hwange

**SIZE:** 52 300 hectares (of Hwange National Park’s 1 465 100 hectares)

These two private concessions combined attract the largest wildlife numbers, making this the best area to visit.

Combination of water and diverse habitats (savannah grasslands, teak woodlands and vleis) make these areas very productive.

The waterholes are magnets for the highest recorded mammal densities in the Park.

**CONSERVATION EFFORTS:**
- Anti-poaching patrols and desnaring
- Supplying water to 22 boreholes
- Annual 24-hour Waterhole Counts of large mammals
- Full-time ecologist

**COMMUNITY AND CULTURE PROJECTS:**
- Children in the Wilderness Eco-Clubs and camp programmes
- School Rehabilitation projects
- School Nutrition Programmes
- Village visits and Voluntourism
ELEPHANT (Total counted 4,789)
ZEBRA (Total counted 724)
GIRAFFE (Total counted 132)
ROAN (Total counted 36)

BUFFALO (Total counted 880)
WILDEBEEST (Total counted 684)
SABLE (Total counted 153)
ELAND (Total counted 113)

LARGE MAMMAL NUMBERS AND DISTRIBUTION, DRY SEASON 2008*

*Numbers represent all those individuals of a specific species counted at the relevant waterhole over a 24-hour period, September 2008.
Mammals – to name but a few...

- Huge herds of elephant and buffalo
- Other grazing animals such as giraffe, hippo, Burchell's zebra
- Antelope include eland, roan antelope, kudu, sable, steenbok, waterbuck and blue wildebeest
- Predators, from honey badger, bat-eared fox, side-striped jackal to lion, cheetah and leopard
- Lots of small stuff – mongoose species, vervet monkey, lesser bushbaby, porcupine, warthog and African wildcat

Incredible Birding

- Dry Kalahari sands: Kori bustard, crimson-breasted shrike, Kalahari scrub-robin, scaly-feathered finch, cut-throat finch, red-eyed bulbul, swallow-tailed bee-eater, black-cheeked waxbill and southern pied babbler
- Zambezi teak and false mopane woodlands: Arnot's chat, Bradfield's hornbill and racket-tailed roller
- The plains (like Ngamo) are alive with: pipits, larks, coursers and wheatears
- Raptors are plentiful: red-necked falcon, Dickinson's kestrel, martial eagle, five vulture species and shikra
- Summer migrants that visit us: southern carmine bee-eater, black kite, broad-billed roller, various cuckoo species, Abdim's stork and European bee-eater
Which Wilderness Safaris Hwange camp do I choose?

Wilderness Safaris has three camps in private concessions in the south-eastern sector of Hwange National Park. Each camp is unique in its setting, offering and style and therefore caters for the many diverse guest experience requirements.

**LINKWASHA CAMP** – highest level of luxury, exclusivity and remoteness; exceptional service and guiding; outstanding wildlife experience; good access to the wildlife-rich Ngamo Plains.

**LITTLE MAKALOLO** – small and intimate; fantastic logpile hide for outstanding game viewing; waterhole in front of camp attracts a plethora of elephant and other wildlife.

**DAVISON'S CAMP** – productive area of the park; affordable; convivial and laid-back; viewing platform in camp that overlooks a thriving waterhole.
What to combine with Hwange

**ZAMBIA**
Package the great wildlife sanctuary of Kafue National Park, the birthplace of the “walking safari,” South Luangwa, or the largely undeveloped Lower Zambezi, with vast and wildlife-dense Hwange.

**SOUTH AFRICA**
Tailor-made itineraries combining Cape Town and Victoria Falls can easily add a stay at Hwange, thereby creating that perfect city-and-bush experience.

**ZAMBIA**
The varied woodland habitats of the Linyanti where guests can overnight at Kings Pool, DumaTau, or Savuti camps, or combine with a stay at a Classic Camp in the Okavango Delta.

**MOZAMBIQUE**
Couple the savannah of Hwange with a stay on Mozambique’s pristine and picturesque coastline to craft a beach-and-bush experience.

**ZIMBABWE**
Combine with a visit to the spectacular Victoria Falls, other camps in northern Hwange, and Lake Kariba. During the winter months (May – Nov) consider adding the wildlife-filled Ruckomechi Camp in Mana Pools National Park.